

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 14, 15, 20 and 28 stand rejected. Claims 3-6, and 6-19 have been objected to. Claims 8-13 and 21-27 have been determined to be allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 14, 15, 20 and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 16-19, and 26 have been amended in this Response. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 14 over Malzbender, et al.

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malzbender, et al. (US 6,278,459). Claims 1 and 14 have been cancelled.

B. Rejection of Claims 2 and 15 over Malzbender, et al. in view of Drebin, et al.

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malzbender, et al. (US 6,278,459) in view of Drebin, et al. (US 4,835,712).

Claims 2 and 15 have been cancelled.

C. Rejection of Claims 7, 20 and 28 over Malzbender, et al. in view of Doi, et al.

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 20, and 28 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malzbender, et al. (US 6,278,459) in view of Doi, et al. (US 5,499,323).

Claims 7, 20 and 28 have been cancelled.

II. Claims Objected to

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner objected to claims 3-6, and 16-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 3, 5 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3, which has been amended as stated above to be written in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 does not require amendment to be allowable. Similarly, claim 6 depends from claim 4 and should be allowable for the same reason as claim 4 should be. Claim 17 is dependent on claim 16 and with claim 16 amended to be written in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 does not require amendment to be allowable. Similarly, claim 18 depends from claim 17 and should be allowable for the same reason as claim 17 should be.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 8-13 and 21-27. Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowability of such claims.

In addition, claim 26 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added. Claim 26 was written as dependent on claim 12, but, in that form, claim 26 was exactly the same as claim 13. Claim 26 should have been made dependent on claim 25, as shown in the amended version. As claim 25 is allowable, claim 26, as revised, should also be allowable.

IV. Late Nature Of This Response

Applicants apologize for the late nature of this response and have enclosed a Petition for Revival of an Application for Patent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 17 CFR 1.137(b). Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's telephone inquiry about the status of this application, which alerted Applicant to the docketing problem that caused the delay.

CONCLUSION

This amendment is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and allowance of its pending and new claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:

1. Transmittal Form (1 page)
2. Fee Transmittal Form (1 page)
3. Fee Determination Record (1 page)
4. Petition for Extension of Time (1 page)
5. Petition to Revive Application Abandoned Unintentionally (2 pages);
6. Response to Office Action dated October 3, 2003 (16 pages)
7. Substitute Specification (21 pages)
8. Postcard